

## THE TWO DIRECTIONS OF MY THANKSGIVING

*By Pastor John Beck*

I am writing this as I am preparing to be gone for a couple weeks of vacation. Heading out of town has given rise to a couple of thoughts I want to share: one about priorities and another about our community.

**Generous Hearts** I thank God for the generosity of our St. Timothy congregation. Again and again we have been faced with challenging situations, some financial, some interpersonal, some concerning our direction. Again and again we have been blessed in ways I could not have predicted. So thank you for the many ways you share Christ in your daily walk and also through our congregation.

We entered this year knowing that many changes are taking place in the lives of our congre-

gation. Some folks have died; some have changed jobs; one family has moved away; others have needed more help and have entered some form of assisted living; some of our people have incurred major medical bills, some have needed to help family members out. In whatever circumstances you find yourself, thank you for your support of the ministry of our congregation, especially your financial support.

Two simple actions would greatly help our stewardship and budgeting efforts this year. (1) If you are behind in the giving you intended, please try to catch up. Our Financial Secretary, Fran W., advises the Council about giving trends so that the council can make good budgeting decisions. And (2) if your giving has changed or needs to change (either increasing or decreasing), please give Fran a call or drop her a note with your intentions. That way she can advise the Council based upon accurate information. For your information, our giving is down for the first three months of the year and the Council wants to make sure we stay on top of our financial matters.

**Active Hands** I got to put together a simple slideshow for the volunteer potluck last Sunday. It was a good experience looking over thousands of pictures, trying to get just the right ones. We wanted to show pictures of everyone who volunteers in some capacity at St. Timothy. We also wanted to show

some of the activities that need volunteers in order to happen, for example, the food bank, Sunday worship, Vacation Bible School, etc.

As I tried to figure out how to include everyone who has their hand in the pot as a volunteer I was struck by the large number of folks who are involved in helping. I also became clear that many of these folks are working



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Newsletter Deadline is always the  
18<sup>th</sup> of the month

**St. Timothy Web Site**  
[sainttimothypdx.org](http://sainttimothypdx.org)

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in hidden, unseen ways that you would never know about unless someone lifted them up. Our volunteers go far beyond those serving on committees.



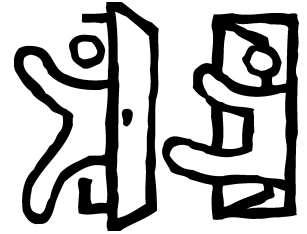
They include folks helping with confirmation, the adult choir, the Samoan choir, quilters, yard work, our janitors, our musicians, those working on building projects, all the folks needed to make worship happen (greeters, communion, audio/video, ushers, readers, assistant ministers, musicians, acolytes, lock-up, plant care, offering counters), the office crew, the folks who help in the garden, those who help with neighborhood linkages, the health ministry crew, the food bank folks, the mowers, the fellowship folks, Tiny Tims, the Council, the Percolators, cookie bakers, set-up and tear-down folks, the bark-dust brigade, those reupholstering some of our chairs, and I can keep going for quite a while.

My point is simple. Our good and gracious God has blessed us, not only with forgiveness through a loving savior, but has given us many diverse gifts. We thank God for both the gifts and for those who use them to build up God's kingdom.



## Surviving Change by Irene B.

Born and raised in Minnesota, I attended a small Missouri Synod country church. Men sat on one side, women on the other. After a few years the building was moved into town. Soon there were many changes. A forward looking Pastor allowed women and men to sit together. My mother taught Sunday school and I played the pump organ during my high school years.



Now I worship in a large church in suburban Portland. I played the electronic organ for a few years before we bought the Roger organ. Then the congregation hired a trained organist. Every Sunday I listen to music played on a baby grand piano. (Wow!)

Sitting near the front of the church I watch as members walk by for Communion. All of a sudden there is a change. Different ethnic groups and people of color walk by. Jesus loves all the "peoples" of the world.

Serving on the David Douglas School Board for a few years I witnessed many changes. A State law was passed directing the elementary districts to unify with the High School to form a K through 12 district. This meant the Gilbert District, the Powellhurst District and the Russeville District would lose their autonomy when they became part of David Douglas. This was both an economic and an educational change. Our school board meetings were very well attended and often very vocal.

As a member of the Portland Lutheran School Board for a short time, we had one very emotional meeting, which lasted until 3:00 AM. We had to terminate the principals' term in office. The Board needed to look for new leadership to lead the school into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

When our church left the Missouri Synod to become a member of AELC that was a change that caused three families to leave St. Tims. Pastor Maier so deftly led us through the whole process.

From AELC came the formation of ELCA when all the synods AELC, LCA, and ALC, would unite. As a member of the Oregon Synod Planning Committee, I was to assist in developing Clusters in Oregon. Some Pastors were reluctant to change affiliation because they were comfortable with the church that they had been interacting with. After nearly two years, 13 Clusters were formed based on geographic location. Some clusters have been renamed based on natural surroundings such as Vine-

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# Health Matters

## Volunteer Appreciation Event:

The Health Ministry Team wishes to thank all of the participants in this event. The food was delicious--and gone--and much appreciated. The moving slide show and collage by Barb V. and Pastor John showed all of us some pictures of our volunteers in motion. Thanks to St. Timothy Tiny Tims for the flowers on the tables as well as ELSIES center pieces from the Cluster Meeting. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for helping with this event. The participation of many of you in telling HM and St. Timothy Church what you are good at and what you would like to learn to do was fantastic. Stay tune for the summary of those who answered these questions and future opportunities for those we missed.

## Coming in May:

Look forward to May 2nd when there will be a bake sale to benefit the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer for the American Cancer Society. Some of us will be walking on May 8th at 9 or so at the Rose Garden (Blazer's not Washington Park). Come and purchase some goodies and consider joining us in the walk--see Karen Kohl or Sherry for more information. We also will have Blood Pressure checks that day.

On Mother's Day we will be honoring all women--come to the church service and be appreciated.

## Update on Relay for Life on July 31 -Aug 1 for American Cancer Society:

Our Team has 3 people signed up and others promising to do so soon. We could always use more. We still need a name on the Carnival Theme as well.

Remember the following:

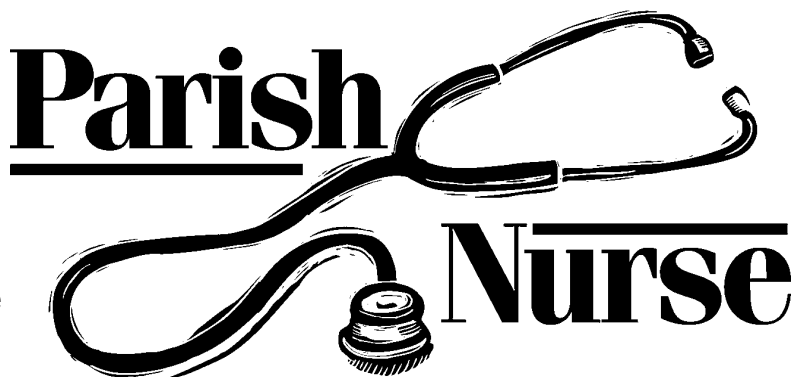
See Team Captain Sherry to sign up as team member or survivor and join us for the opening ceremony at noon on July 31st.

Support your team with donations to the team or members of the team and participating in the Chinese Auction coming in June--we could use donations (clean out those attics and basements) and happy purchasers on June 6th during the coffee hour

Pray for our team and others participating in this event.

Blessings,

Sherry W. HM Chair



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yard Cluster, high Desert Cluster, and of course Mt. Hood Cluster. Once a year the women of our Cluster meet, and have a business meeting, a Bible study, and a nice lunch. In rural Oregon the Clusters enjoy interacting with other churches because some are 40 or 50 miles apart. In urban Portland, city life is more complex. Congregational life is more complex, therefore Pastors have many more time consuming duties in their own church so they don't promote interaction with other churches.

I remember when daylight savings time began. A change some farmers remarked, "the cows don't know what time it is." This was an economical change allowing more day light hours for workers.

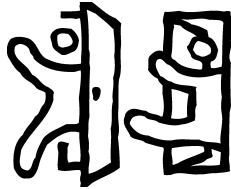
In the book 'Ministry Cross-Culturally', the author discusses Time and Events. The author relates Americans and Germans belong to time oriented cultures. They are schedule oriented, start on time and conclude on time. Now I know why Pastor John often starts service late, he's a Norwegian American. Americans can be 5 minutes late – no problem, 15 minutes late - they become anxious, 30 minutes late – causes tension. In some countries being three or four hours late is acceptable. French and Italians spend three or four hours on their evening repast. Americans like the idea of a drive-through fast food eating establishment where they can enjoy a meal in 15 minutes.

Some of my personal changes are:

Change: growing older. Growing older means more aches and pains. Growing older means more experiences, more experience, it means gaining wisdom.

Change: Widowed. Losing a spouse is an emotional happening and losing a child is also a great loss. No spouse to mow the lawn, no spouse to open those pesky pickle jars, and no one to play pinochle with in the afternoon. I try to be optimistic and stay active in church activities and continue to keep active in hobbies of reading and sewing.

Change: Educational experience; My first teaching job was being a principal and a high school science teacher in northern Minnesota in the Red



River Valley potato growing area. The Superintendent was a strict disciplinarian, so there were few problems. My last teaching experience was in a Middle School in suburban Portland. I taught Reading and Language Arts. Drug problems were on the increase and the student body population increased in the number of non-English speaking students. Change: Computerized world; I am computer illiterate. All my children find the computer necessary in their professions. I compensate by doing crossword puzzles, watch Jeopardy, Millionaire, and by reading a book a day. Having friends that are computer savvy helps.

Change: Ministerial Leadership; during my membership at St Tim's we have had at least 13 different Pastors and interns. These leaders are highly trained so it is not our right to judge them. Each Pastor has his different styles of leadership. My hope is that they don't impose too many changes too soon on our membership.

Change: Congregational Leadership; Each year we have different congregational leaders. Some by-laws state that officers are limited to two terms. This is good so we don't get too possessive of the job or role we're playing. Leadership doesn't imply ownership.

Change: Sharing space. Ever since the Hospitality House was built the doors have been open to many groups. It has been very difficult to be more tolerant of groups using our building. We each like our space. It isn't my space, our space, or your space; it is the space God has given us to spread the "Good Word."

I hope each one of you ponder the changes that have happened in your life. Be ready to comply with those changes you can't change and have courage to try to change the changes that can be changed.


I am a survivor. Suffering from illness or the many changes is minuscule compared to those who face hunger each day or those trying to rebuild their lives after floods, hurricanes or earthquakes.

I remember a saying, "Brother can you spare a dime?" A dime, a dime, some change left after you had lunch at a fast-food drive-in. Put the dime in a little box for "World Hunger". One dime, not a big change, but many dimes do promote change.

Irene B. member since 1957

(Notes from "Ministering Cross Culturally", by Lingenfelter and Mayers. Copyright, 2009.)

# May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15 am Choir <b>10 am Worship</b> <del>Coffee Hour</del> Blood Pressure Screening	3	4 1 pm Fellowship Meeting	5 <b>10 am</b> <b>Quilters</b>	6 7 pm Choir	7 9 am Food Bank	8
9 <u>Mother's Day</u> 9:15 am Choir <b>10 am Worship</b>	10	11 7 pm Council meeting	12 <b>10 am</b> <b>Quilters</b>	13 6:30 pm Good Spirit 7 pm Choir	14 8 am Good Spirit Food Drive 9 am Food Bank	15 10 am ELSIES Women's Bible study and meeting
16 <u>Food Drive</u> 9:15 am Choir <b>10 am Worship</b> <del>Newsletter</del> <b>DEADLINE</b>	17	18 7 pm Health Ministry Team Meet- ing	19 <b>10 am</b> <b>Quilters</b>	20 7 pm Choir	21 9 am Food Bank	22 <b>2:30 pm</b> <b>Spring</b> <b>Tea</b>
23 <u>Pentecost</u> <u>Sunday</u> 9:15 am Choir <b>10 am Worship</b>	24	25 <b>10 am</b>  Newsletter Folding Party	26 <b>10 am</b> <b>Quilters</b>	27 7 pm Choir	28 8:45 am Sara Miles; assembly speaker at Jantzen Beach	29 Oregon Synod Assembly at Jantzen Beach
30 <u>5th Sunday</u> 9:15 am Choir <b>10 am Worship</b> Choir's last musical offering until autumn	31 Memorial Day	<b>Our 5th Sunday Offering Will be for Camp Lutherwood Scholarships For our teens</b>				

## Worship Ministry Schedule for May 2010

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
<b>Table</b>		Sherry W.	Ray W.	Tim H.	Sherry W.
<b>Lector</b>	Barb V.	Don W.	Dorian W.	Elenore K.	John B.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Julius O.	John B.	Ato T.	Ricky S.	Julius O.
<b>Greeter</b>	Elaine S. & Clyde D.	Hummingbird & Skip	Jean L.	Grace D.	Hummingbird & Skip
<b>Usher #1</b>	Allen P.	Pat B.	Steve T.	Mike T.	Greta C.
<b>Usher #2</b>	Don W.	Gary M.	LeAnn T.	Pam T.	Grace D.
<b>Announcer</b>	Frances C.	Betty C.	Jean W.	Mary S.	Annette B.
<b>Video/Sound</b>	Ricky S.	Ray W.	Julius O.	Dorian W.	Ato T.
<b>Percolators</b>	Ray and Alice P.				
<b>Counters</b>	Don W. & Gene K.	Teddy & Jean W.	Shannon & Mary	Fran W. & Deanna	Cathy & Tim
<b>Lockup</b>	Jean W.	Ray W.	Jean W.	Ray W.	Jean W.
<b>Plant Care</b>	Georgia V.				
<b>Care Coordinators</b>	Sherry W. and Betty C.				

**Ministry Volunteers!** If you cannot serve on your scheduled Sunday, ask another volunteer to switch with you. Tell the office of your changes, so the bulletin can be changed as well.

Go to the church office if you need to set up your schedule for the next quarter, July, August, and September. Lots of vacations to work around, so come early to get your favorite dates.



# Birthdays

## MAY

- 4. Sandy L.  
Gary M.  
Tala'ave S.
- 6. Jean W.
- 7. Mina B.
- 8. Misael L.
- 13. Dorothy C.
- 14. Jaime D.
- 15. Teddy W.
- 16. Don W.
- 17. John C.
- 18. Tommy S.
- 20. Gisela W.  
Diane V.  
Vivian M.
- 21. Evan Daniel S.
- 23. Judy P.
- 24. Maxine M.  
Leslee C.  
Julius O.
- 25. Fran W.
- 26. Kevin J.
- 29. Frances W.

Please join us at the

2nd Annual Spring Tea and Talent Showcase  
May 22nd at 2:30 pm

Light Refreshments...and Tea, too!  
St. Timothy's Fellowship Hall

Tickets are \$10 per person in advance or  
\$12.50 at the door

and may be purchased at our ticket office (church office)  
or from the Cookbook Committee of  
Greta C., Karen BK, or Shannon H.

Featuring the artistry of:

The Bell Choir of Tiny Tims, Lisa Sanders—Director  
The piano tinklings of Francis C.

Poetry with Alexis C.

Abby A.

Plus many more guest artists!

You won't want to miss this Auspicious Event!

## Cards are Recycled for Snow-CAP

Jean Larson takes used or new greeting cards to recycle them for a Snow-CAP fundraiser. Drop off your cards downstairs at the foot of the stairs by the elevator.

The decorative pictures are clipped from your donated cards and used to make new cards. A selection of these cards are available in the narthex. Give Jean L. your payment or leave it in the container by the cards.

**MANY, MANY THANKS** Gethsemane Lutheran Church wants to make sure that Bette, Gisela, Irene, Barb and Betty know that the dinner you provided for Daybreak Shelter was very much appreciated. Such a variety and delicious too!

Special Invitation to Everyone  
On May 28, Friday morning, the  
Oregon Synod Assembly is going to open with a speaker,  
**Sara Miles**

Who walked through church doors and changed her life.

She developed her ministry around food.

Now we have a chance to hear her speak about Jesus and food, for free!

Plus there will be two workshop sessions available afterwards.

For Free!

Ironically, you have to pay for lunch. It's optional and \$15.00

(There is an address for mailing your check.)

It will be at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Ballroom

909 N Hayden Island Dr

Portland

The day starts at 8:45 am and

Workshops are at 10:15 and 11:15 am.

**St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
14500 SE Powell Blvd  
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**Address Correction Requested**

May  
2010

